



The Tiny Teeth program began in Cowley County, Kansas when a group of concerned local citizens noticed an increase in numbers of young children with early childhood caries, or severe tooth decay. The group consisted of a local dentist, parents as first teacher homevisitor, head start health educator, health department nurse, and the Legacy Community Foundation.

The Legacy Community Foundation (www.legacyregionalfoundation.org) dressed these concerns through a grant, Tiny Teeth, funded by the United Methodist Health Ministries fund. Tiny Teeth provided practical oral health education materials to organizations engaging parents and caregivers of children age birth to three. The materials are designed to provide stimulation for discussions with families or caregivers regarding oral health behaviors. Some of the items include (most things are available in both English and Spanish):

- Notebook with age appropriate educational information and handouts for parents and caregivers.
- Brochures addressing sippy cups, juice and soda.
- A scripted oral health education flipchart presentation for home visitors
- A presentation for health professionals addressing prenatal mothers
- A resource disk with a wide variety of tools

Tiny Teeth also worked with local youth services librarian, Tabitha Hogan, a member of the 2006 national selection board for Caldecott award winners, to design Tiny Teeth Take Libraries to Children kits. These kits are a wonderful way to engage young children and their families/caregivers in discussions about oral health. The kit titles include:

- Brushing your teeth
- Food for healthy teeth
- A visit to the dentist
- A Spanish kit

Because of the useful and important nature of these materials, the Legacy Foundation plans to make the materials available on a special order basis for other organizations.